Indian Country, and virus legislation

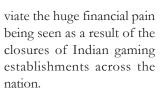
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But tribes remain uncertain about the \$40 million authorized by H.R.6074, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act.

The new law directs the funds to be provided to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which has not yet informed Indian Country of how soon the money will be distributed and in what form, whether it be grants, or other methods.

The second legislative package offers a bit more certainty. H.R.6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, puts \$64 million into the IHS budget to cover the costs of COVID-19 testing. The new law also contains provisions to cover the costs of COVID-19 testing when it takes place under purchased/referred care, which happens when patients-like the ones in the Navajo Area-are taken to partner facilities outside of the federal system. It further provides \$10 million for programs that provide nutrition assistance to elderly Native Americans.

With a third package in the works, tribes and key members of Congress are working to ensure Indian Country isn't left out. The overarching goal is to alle-



"We cannot ignore the elevated risks faced by Indian Country from this virus," National Congress of American Indians Chief Executive Officer Kevin Allis, a citizen of the Forest County Potawatomi Community, said.

"The federal government's chronic underfunding of its treaty and trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives must end – lives are at risk."

"In the wake of the global pandemic, tribal nations have been left out of the conversation."



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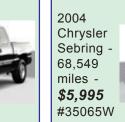
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The Plateau Travel Plaza in Madras is on NW Cherry Lane, just off Highway 26 in the Jefferson County Industrial Park. At the Plateau Travel Plaza it's business as usual for fuel service, propane, game room and retail operations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. *Currently the Three* TeePees Café is only doing take-out food. You can call to place an order for pick up at 541-777-2826.

